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Message Text

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50/47
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /086 W
---------- 030206
R 111246Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6184
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3855

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP
SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: RABAT 3766

1. SUMMARY. KING EXPLAINS BORDER INCIDENTS TO SPANISH AMBASSADOR, WITH SPANISH REAFFIRMING THAT SEVERE COUNTER-MEASURES LIKELY IF INCIDENTS CONTINUE, ACCORDING TO SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE. QADHAFI SAID TO DEMAND GOS COME TO TERMS WITH MOROCCANS ON SAHARA. SPANISH HERE PROFESS BELIEF THAT ICJ OPINION WILL FAVOR MOROCCO. END SUMMARY.

2. BORDER INCIDENTS: SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE (PLEASE PROTECT CONFIDENTIAL

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FULLY) TELLS US SPANISH AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED IN BY KING HASSAN

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AUGUST 9 TO RECEIVE EXPLANATION OF RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS, FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY KING (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO SOURCE, KING BLAMED INCIDENTS ON FORMER LIBERATION ARMY MEMBERS, VETERANS OF IFNI CAMPAIGN, WHO HAD BEEN INTEGRATED AS REGULARS INTO FAR AND NOW REFUSE TO SUMIT TO OFFICIAL POLICY OF RESTRAINT ON SAHARA OPERATIONS. SOURCE SAID THESE UNITS, IN MOROCCAN UNIFORMS AND WITH REGULAR ISSUE WEASPONS, NOW OPERATING IN SAHARA ITSELF AND THEREFORE OUT OF DISCIPLINARY REACH OF KING OR COLONEL DLIMI, WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR SOUTHERN COMMAND. KING, SPANISH SAID, OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO REINFORCE POINT HE DOES NOT WISH TO SEE BORDER TENSIONS ESCALATED.

3. SPANISH AMB REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT SPANISH ARMY, WHICH NOW HAS "SEVEN DEAD", IS GREATLY DISTURBED BY RECENT EVENTS. KING WAS INFORMED THAT SEVERE COUNTERMEASURES, WHETHER WITH OFFICIAL GOS SANCTION OR AS RESULT LOCAL SPANISH INITIATIVE, LIKELY AGAINST "RENEGADE UNITS" IF MOROCCANS DO NOT TAKE SITUATION IN HAND. RELEASE OF MOROCCAN PRISONERS, SOURCE SAID, DEFINITELY IN LIMBO FOR TIME BEING.

4. SPANISH, SOURCE SAID, ARE GREATLY CONCERNED BY GOM'S LACK OF CONTROL. THEY SEE EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT SITUATION MAY DESTABILIZE BEFORE DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION ARRIVED AT. SOURCE EXPRESSED WORRY OVER POSSIBLE LONG RANGE EFFECTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT INCREASING LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS BLOODSHED MAY PRODUNA. ON OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, GOS SHOULD REALIZE THAT INCIDENTS INEVITABLE WHEN TWO FORCES OPPOSED ALONG POORLY MARKED BORDER.

5. SOURCE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT SPANISH UNDERSTOOD DLIMI IN HOT WATER WITH KING BOTH AS RESULT FAILURE TO CONTROL SITUATION IN SOUTH AND RECENT ABORTIVE PRISON BREAK BY SKHIRAT COUP ATTEMPT PLOTTERS. DLIMI, HE SAID, HAD DECIDED VERY SHORTLY BEFORE ESCAPE THAT PRISONERS, AS SOLDIERS, BELONGED UNDER HIS CONTROL AND TRANSFERRED THEM FROM CIVIL DETENTION WHERE THEY HAD BEEN DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF SECSTATE FOR INTERIOR, DRISS BASRI.

6. LIBYA: SAME SOURCE ALSO SAID (ASKING FOR COMPLETE PROTECTION) THAT SPANISH IN TRIPOLI CALLED IN BY QADHAFI, WHO DEMANDED THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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COME TO TERMS WITH MOROCCANS ON SAHARA. HE CHARACTERIZED LIBYAN DEMARCHE AS "NEAR ULTIMATUM" AND INDICATED OIL WEAPON BRANDISHED. SPANISH REPLIED, "QUITE RUDELY", THAT THEIR POLICY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH POSITIONS TAKEN IN UN AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT BOW TO LIBYAN THREATS.

7. ICJ: SOURCE REAFFIRMED UNOFFICIAL SPANISH BELIEF THAT ICJ ADVISORY OPINION LIKELY TO BE FAVORABLE TO MOROCCANS. HE

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ALSO INDICATED THAT SPANISH EMBASSY HERE CONTINUES TO HOPE
FOR EVENTUAL "BILATERAL" (I.E., SPANISH-MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN)
NEGOTIATIONS ON SAHARA AND SEES A DEAL LEGITIMIZED BY ICJ
OPINION AS BEST WAY OUT PROVIDED GENERAL SITUATION DOES NOT
DETERIORATE EXCESSIVELY BEFOREHAND. FROM EVIDENT EXASPERATION
OF OUR SPANISH EMBASSY CONTACTS, IT ALSO APPARENT THAT MADRID
NOT INCLINED TOWARD THIS SOLUTION FOR THE MOMENT.
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